

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 7, 2013

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Chair, Diana Campbell and Lynn Wainwright

School Committee, Administration & Guests: Karen Lynch, Susan Rancourt, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade and Nina Murphy (7:20 pm)

Meeting called to order by William O. at 6:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Diana C. motioned to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting; Lynn W. seconded.

DISCUSSION: Diana C. would like to see the minutes amended with the addition of the following:

Policy Vision for 2013

Discussion on Policy Vision for 2013 was tabled for the next meeting.

Review of Policies in the Queue

The subcommittee briefly decided that the Dating Violence Policy

currently in the queue be included as an agenda item for the next Policy meeting. In addition, it was agreed to look into having the Superintendent's Evaluation possibly moved back to being the responsibility of the Personnel Subcommittee. Bill O said he would speak to Paul S. about this.

MOTION: Diana C motioned to amend the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting with the above changes; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A vote was then taken to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes and passed unanimously.

Hiring Policy for Athletic Coaches

Melinda T. had a conversation with Christy B. asking her if she felt there was a need for a School Committee Policy concerning the hiring and practices of athletic coaches or could this be covered by internal protocol/policy. Christy B. is confident that an internal protocol would be sufficient and is developing framework for this. Christy B. will possibly have a draft of this ready for the next meeting. There was a question raised as to whether these internal protocols would include concerns that parents voiced at the last meeting. Melinda is confident they will. Another question raised was whether or not there would be strict adherence to this new protocol if Christy B. was no longer athletic director and the fact that she is the high school athletic director, how would this translate to the middle school

athletics department. Melinda T. stated that they are currently looking at the organizational structure of the middle school athletics department. Assurance was also requested that the new protocols would include try-outs and evaluators. Another concern was raised of whether an “internal policy” would be as enforceable as a School Committee Policy. Finally, a concern was brought up related to the choosing of middle school children for sports that because they are at a more “fragile” age, it would be important to find ways for them to participate in other sporting areas if they did not get chosen for their sport of choice. Bill O. suggested that Melinda provide to Christy B. the six points of concerns found in the December 12, 2012 minutes which comprised issues that were raised by committee members and the parents for her to use as a reference in drafting the athletic coaches hiring and practices internal protocol.

Health and Wellness Policy (JHCG)

Bill O. stated his goal is to see policies that are no more than two pages including the Health and Wellness Policy. Diana C. stated that her goal is to have a policy that is as clear as possible across the district. Lynn W. would like to see a policy that is user friendly and would not put us in a litigation situation.

Lynn W. attended the Wellness Collaborative Workshop where she learned of a program whereby RIDE has contracted through the Rhode Island Community Food Bank a Wellness Collaborative Initiative. Through this initiative, school districts can fill out and

submit an application by January 15th) and then eight to ten districts will be selected to have a free consultation of their current wellness policies and whether they are in compliance with the state. Lynn asked the subcommittee if they would like to participate. Some concerns raised were whether this group had any enforceability power to mandate policy, and Lynn responded no, that they are just providing a service. Another concern voiced was could this review actually create a “bigger” policy rather than a streamlined one. After some discussion, all agreed that it wouldn’t hurt to have Lynn W. fill out the application and submit. She will copy Melinda with the completed form. If Bristol Warren Regional School District is chosen, the hope is to be able to submit to them for review a draft copy reflecting revisions made after the current run-through of the proposed policy on the table at this time.

The subcommittee began going through the policy line by line with the following changes:

Policy Intent

The Bristol Warren Regional School District promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity as part of its total learning environment. Because of the critical role health plays in academic success, the intent of the Health and Wellness Policy is to encourage proper nutrition and physical fitness for all students and staff.

(This paragraph reflects more streamlined wording combining the proposed draft's first two paragraphs of this section.)

Health and Wellness Policy Committee (Originally entitled "Purpose and Goals")

The District's Health and Wellness Committee is responsible for establishing and measuring the implementation of the District's health and Wellness Policy. Committee members work collaboratively to offer multiple health and wellness recommendations that are in-line with the District's educational and budgetary goals and fulfill the requirements of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

(Under the original section "Purpose and Goals", the first paragraph was removed and the second paragraph slightly edited.)

Mission

(No changes indicated during this meeting.)

(Nina Murphy arrived at meeting at 7:20 p.m. with questions about the previously covered agenda item concerning Hiring Policies of Athletic Coaches. Bill O'Dell gave her a brief overview of the discussion and gave her the six points of concern from the December 12th minutes

explaining that these will be provided to Christy B. as she completes the draft of the internal policy for the hiring and practices of athletic coaches. Nina was satisfied with this information and left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

Membership

(No changes indicated during this meeting.)

At the next meeting, the Student Nutrition section will be reviewed using Andrew's email as a guideline. Karen Lynch gave the following input for that future discussion as well: She is in disagreement with Section 2 - Nutrition Education Goals ; specifically, teaching across curriculums as well as food based fundraisers where she feels the district would be overstretching its bounds. Karen L. wants to be sure that we are not taking resources and time providing for staff at the expense of the kids. She would ultimately like to see the staff piece removed.

Susan R. and Karen L. left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Policy Vision 2013

Bill O. asked each of the subcommittee members to state what their vision is for Policy Subcommittee.

Lynn W.:

- **Would like to see a review of Student Handbooks and Policies at the high school level.**
- **Would like to look into a policy concerning legal matters and the statute of limitations**

Diana C.

- **Feels that the policy subcommittee is a good place to implement the goal of setting a high degree of excellence through implementing standards for excellence in quality of education. Her definition of excellence would be to provide the best quality education, that everyone has the same opportunity to be educated and to implement policies that would reflect this.**

Bill O.

- **His goal while on the policy subcommittee is to avoid new policy whenever possible, eliminate policy wherever possible, encourage brevity in wording, empowerment of administrators and protect the autonomy of the local school system via the careful scrutiny of state and federal laws, regulations and mandates, and by the advice of legal counsel.**

Bill O. reiterated his concern of are we doing more than the law requires. He wants to protect us from unnecessary intervention.

Diana C. believes that locally, though, if someone feels strongly about something and we have mandated it for ourselves, it is good to

proceed with a policy in that area, and Bill O. agreed.

Review of Policies in the Queue

The Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drugs Policy

Diana asked if this needed review and Melinda responded that there were some formatting issues where they had to go back to the drawing board. This item will remain in the queue.

Chemical Healthy Policy

It was felt that this could be an addendum to the Tobacco policy, but that it is probably a good idea to expand on its own. The School Committee secretary will research the history and content of this proposed policy and report findings to Melinda. This item will remain in the queue.

Code of Conduct

It was agreed that this needs to be looked at and will remain in the queue.

Compulsory Attendance

Waiting to hear from RIDE. This will remain in the queue.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Paul S. delegated to Marj M. to look into the timeline of when this is required to be complete. This discussion will take place during the February workshop in Executive Session. This item will remain in the

queue.

RIASC Sample Superintendent's Evaluation

Marj felt comfortable bringing this back for review. This item will remain in the queue.

The following items will also remain in the queue : Health and Wellness Policy and Dating Violence Policy

The following items will be removed from the queue: Process for Development of Program of Studies, Absences related to Parent's Deployment to Combat Zone, Process/Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse, Off-Campus Program / Trip Consent, and Student Resource Officer

Bill O. requested that Kickemuit Middle School and Mt. Hope High School Student Handbook be added to the queue.

Dating Violence Policy

No discussion occurred during this meeting

Adjournment

MOTION: At 8:09 pm Lynn W. motioned to adjourn; Diana C. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd